Task Force to study effect to FDI on retail market

†2457. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force has been constituted to study the effect of Foreign Direct investment in retail market on the domestic retail market of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of persons in such Task Force and the inquiry related background of such persons; and

(c) the responsibility entrusted for consideration to such Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Study on impact of organized retail in unorganized retail including small retailers and vendors has been entrusted to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). ICRIER has been asked *inter alia* to assess the impact to FDI in the retail sector with reference to its impact on small retailers and vendors in the unorganized sector, employment, consumers, farmers and manufacturers, prices and on overall economic growth.

Reserves and exports of iron ore

†2458. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how much reserves of iron ore and granite deposits are available in different parts of the country;

(b) the quantities of iron ore, granite and other useful minerals exported to other countries and the amounts of foreign exchange earned in such deal during the last two years; year-wise;

(c) whether the policy of exporting valuable raw materials to other countries and importing finished goods at higher prices would be prudent in the long term interests of our country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) what steps have been initiated to correct the position to safeguard our country's interest in terms of self sufficiency in major minerals, like iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH): (a) As on 1.4.2005 iron ore resources in India are estimated at 25,249 million tones which includes reserves of 7211.11 million tones. The resources of granite as on 1.4.2000 are estimated at 37,624.6 million million cubic metres which includes reserves of 912 thousand cubic metres.

(b) The details are given in the statement (See below).

(c) and (d) In a globalised economy trade in goods is carried out in a judicious mix of export and import, keeping in mind, the larger interest of the country. Accordingly, the existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand.

Statement

Export of Iron Ore, granite & Other minerals from India during 2005-06 and 2004-05.

Item	Value in US$ million 2005-06	Quantity in million kgs 2005-06	Value in US$ million 2004-05	Quantity in million kgs 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
Granite, Natural Stones & Products		2841.04	571.9	2608.53
Granite & Products	788.3			
Marble & Products	37.7	204.90	37.6	212.12
Slate Stone	47.6	176.67	41.4	164.60
Other Stones & Products	156.7	1559.68	117.8	1311.94
Bulk Minerals	3860.3	89.27*	3113.6	78.14*
Iron Ore				
Chrome Ore	113.4	605.14	150.0	1008.77

1	2	3	4	5
Manganese Ore	10.5	237.34	14.9	317.78
Coal Ore	51.7	1.98*	54.1	1.37*
Bauxite	61.5	2195.57	34.3	987.81
Salt	34.3	1691.15	34.2	2066.63
Aluminium Metal	196.7	64.82	222.5	108.46
Copper Ore	0.0	0	3.2	18.99
Zinc Ore	204.5	433.64	61.1	180.70
Others	13.8	336.89	43.2	400.71

* Quantity in million tonnes.

Source: (1) For quantity: The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (Iron Ore Source:MMTC Limited)

(2) For Value: The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics & CAPEXIL.

Takeover of roads in Assam by BRO

2459. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the Ministry would consider taking over the Tihu-Doomi-Subankhata Road in Barpeta district; Mangaldai-Bhutiachaing-Samrang Road and Rowtacharali-Udalguri-Tamulpur Road in Udalguri district in Assam as International Indo-Bhutan Border Roads, and take up their improvement and maintenance under Border Roads Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): It would not be feasible for BRO to take up improvement and maintenance of these roads, as these roads have no operational significance for the Army. These roads could be taken up by any other agency.

Participation of Indian Industries in defence production

2460. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging Indian industries, including the public, private sector and ordnance factories, to participate in the vast field of defence production;